

REMARKS

Claims 1-13, and 19-40 are pending in the application. Claims 14-18 have been canceled herein without prejudice. Favorable reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

I. REJECTIONS OF CLAIMS 1-40 UNDER 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(e) AND 103(a)


Claims 14-16, and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,457,803 ("Ohkoda"). Claim 17 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ohkoda in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,168,320 ("Ono"). Since claims 14-18 have been canceled herein without prejudice, the rejections are now believed to be moot. Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

It is noted Applicant reserves the right to pursue the subject matter recited in claims 14-18 presented in the previous Amendment C (dated December 5, 2003) in related applications.

II. CONCLUSION

Applicant believes that all pending claims are in condition for allowance, and respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance at an early date. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 510-843-6200, ext. 245.

Respectfully submitted,
BEYER WEAVER & THOMAS, LLP



Haruo Yawata
Limited Recognition under 37 CFR § 10.9(b)

P.O. Box 778
Berkeley, CA 94704-0778
Tel: 510-843-6200, ext. 245


**BEFORE THE OFFICE OF ENROLLMENT AND DISCIPLINE
UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

LIMITED RECOGNITION UNDER 37 CFR § 10.9(b)

Mr. Haruo Yawata is hereby given limited recognition under 37 CFR § 10.9(b) as an employee of Beyer Weaver & Thomas, LLP to prepare and prosecute patent applications wherein the patent applicant is the client of Beyer Weaver & Thomas, LLP, and the attorney or agent of record in the applications is a registered practitioner who is a member of Beyer Weaver & Thomas, LLP. This limited recognition shall expire on the date appearing below, or when whichever of the following events first occurs prior to the date appearing below: (i) Mr. Haruo Yawata ceases to lawfully reside in the United States, (ii) Mr. Haruo Yawata's employment with Beyer Weaver & Thomas, LLP ceases or is terminated, or (iii) Mr. Haruo Yawata ceases to remain or reside in the United States on an H-1 visa.

This document constitutes proof of such recognition. The original of this document is on file in the Office of Enrollment and Discipline of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

Expires: August 28, 2004



Harry I. Moatz
Director of Enrollment and Discipline